

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1b

Sociological Background

HISTORICAL SETTING

174 According to linguistic evidence, the peoples speaking Finno-Ugric languages originally lived in central Russia around the Volga and gradually split into different tribes. The ancestors of the present-day Finns, the so-called Balto-Finnic tribe, probably left their original home at the beginning of the Christian era and wandered towards the northwest until they reached the southern shores of the Baltic [172] Sea. Archeological evidence, however, seems to place the original home of the Finns much farther westward, around the Baltic, so this problem is still being disputed. At any rate, 144 174 when they were living on the shores of the Baltic, the Finnic peoples came into close

144 contact with Lithuanian and German tribes, the
174 result of which was, to a certain extent, a
mixed population.

167 Gradually some of these Balto-Finnic people
162 began to migrate to the north across the
Gulf of Finland. The country here was probably
already known to them as rich in forests and
hunting grounds, and at that time it was only
very sparsely populated by nomadic Lapps and
perhaps some Germanic people with settlements
along the southwestern coastal area. The tribes
moving over to the north were called the Finns
(suomalaiset) and the Tavastians (hämäläiset).
A third tribe, the Karelians (karjalaiset), had
probably migrated by land over the Karelian
Isthmus and had settled around Lake Ladoga,
pushing their frontier slowly westward. These

Annex "A," Subparagraph 1d

Sociological Background

ETHNIC GROUPS

● 144 Racially the Finns form a fairly uniform group bearing kinship with the rest of the European peoples, especially with their neighbors to the east and west. When the theory of a Ural-Altaic language relationship was presented about a century ago, the Finns became linked in the popular conception of the theory with Asiatic peoples. Even today they are in some ill-informed circles obstinately regarded as Mongols, although their physical appearance strongly contradicts any such assumption. Even if a linguistic Ural-Altaic relationship could be proved, the Finns as speakers of a Ural-Altaic language could not be

- 144 called Mongols any more than, for example, the English-speaking American Negroes can be regarded as a Teutonic people.

The most dominant racial element in the Finnish people is the East Baltic race which is spread over the Baltic regions, Russia, Poland, Bohemia and Hungary, and is further represented to a certain extent in Scandinavia and among immigrants in North America. "Purebred" East Baltics are relatively rare. In Finland they have been mixed with the Nordic race, which is predominant in the west of the country, as much among the Finnish-speaking as among the Swedish-speaking population. The Nordic element was partially acquired before the Finns moved over to Finland; mostly, of course, it is due to a mixture with Swedish immigrants. Both the

● 144 *Both the*
142 East Baltic and the Nordic elements are distinguished by an exceptionally fair coloring.

In the east and in the north there occurs, however, a dark element in the population, no doubt due to Lappish influence, that accounts for the occurrence of darker hair and a slightly shorter height in these areas than in the west. The share of the Lappish race, however, is not determinative to any marked degree.

141 The Finns belong among the tall peoples in Europe, the average height for men being a little above 170 centimeters, and for the women about 10 centimeters less. There are, however, great local deviations in height as well as in the cephalic index.

The average height has been steadily rising during the last few decades, no doubt due to

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[871] Swedish is still taught as the second native language in every Finnish secondary school, as is Finnish in the Swedish-speaking schools.

Practical knowledge of Swedish, however, has lately greatly diminished. While in the beginning of the century it was customary for the Finnish-speaking people in the bilingual area to be fluent in Swedish, today Swedish is only learned at school like any other foreign language. The knowledge of Finnish, on the other hand, has been spreading, so that the great majority of speakers of Swedish are able to communicate freely in Finnish. There is no clear-cut racial demarcation line between these linguistic groups, so that it is impossible to tell from the looks of a person if he is of Finnish or of Swedish parentage. Moreover,

● 144 by now, the language groups have become so
191 intermingled that a Finnish-speaking person may have a long line of Swedish-speaking ancestors, and vice versa. The name is no proof either. During the Swedish regime Swedish family names became the fashion, and even today a Finn may have a family name that he is unable to pronounce correctly.

191 The Finns are not polyglots like many of the peoples in Central Europe, but great emphasis is placed on the study of foreign languages, and, as a whole, the Finns show a fair aptitude in learning a strange idiom. English is now the foreign language most commonly known in the country and, in addition to the school children, a great number of people, both old and young, study it in night schools or through